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RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2352
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OIIP KMDR KPAO JA
SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - TAIWAN
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¶1. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Thursday morning included plans by Prime Minister Aso to pledge at the upcoming G20 summit Japan's contribution of up to 10 trillion yen to the IMF in order to shore up its emergency loan program for emerging economies.

¶2. "Split in Taiwan Should Be Avoided" The liberal Tokyo Shimbun editorialized (11/13): "Former Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian was arrested on Wednesday on bribery and other charges. He maintains his innocence and described the move as political persecution. The arrest of Chen, who still has many supporters, runs the risk of dividing Taiwanese society.... Chen has many fervent supporters, especially in the southern part of Taiwan, where calls for independence are strong. His arrest could escalate tensions in Taiwanese society, and instability there could provoke hardliners in China. Legal authorities must handle the case fairly. The current administration should not use the incident for political purposes."

SCHIEFFER